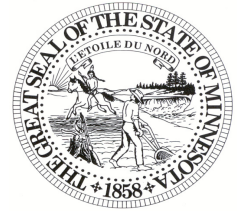




**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
Office of Energy Security



**NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT  
SCOPING DECISION**

**Issued: May 28, 2010**

**In the Matter of AWA Goodhue, LLC  
Application for a Certificate of Need  
for the 78 MW Goodhue Wind Project**

**Docket No. IP-6701/CN-09-1186**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Director of the Office of Energy Security (OES) has issued the Environmental Report Scoping Decision for the Goodhue Wind Project Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) proposed for Goodhue County. The Environmental Report is being prepared for the Certificate of Need proceeding and will address potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed LWECS and project alternatives. Copies of the Environmental Report Scoping Decision and other relevant documents are accessible at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25631>

Additional Certificate of Need documents can be obtained from the Department of Commerce's eDocket website at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> by searching for **year:** 09 and **number:** 1186.

Paper copies may be requested from the Office of Energy Security staff listed at the end of this notice.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

AWA Goodhue, LLC, proposes a 78 MW wind energy conversion system using up to 52 General Electric (GE) XLE 1.5 MW wind turbine generators, with a hub height of 262.5 feet (80 meters) and a rotor diameter of 271 feet (82.5 meters). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project will include gravel access roads, two meteorological towers, an electrical collection system, and junction boxes delivering power to two proposed project substations. The two substations will step-up the voltage from the 34.5 kV feeder lines to 69 kV and deliver the power on two 69 kV transmission lines, one existing and the other proposed, to the electrical grid. There will also be an operations and maintenance building.

The proposed Goodhue Wind Project will be located in south-eastern Goodhue County on agricultural land in Bell Creek, Goodhue, Minneola and Vasa townships, west of the city of Goodhue and north of the city of Zumbrota. Goodhue Wind has indicated that it has

approximately 12,000 acres of land under easement agreements within the 32,684 acre project boundary.

## **CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW PROCESS**

The project is a “large energy facility” as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 216B.2421, subdivision 2(1), and a Certificate of Need from the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is required for such a project under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243. On October 15, 2009, AWA Goodhue, LLC, LLC filed a Certificate of Need application for the Goodhue Wind Project. On December 30, 2009, the Commission issued an order accepting the application as substantially complete.

A public hearing on the Certificate of Need will be held shortly after the OES completes preparation of the Environmental Report. Under Minnesota law, the Certificate of Need proceeding is the only time at which the “no-build” alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the Site Permit process.

## **SCHEDULE**

The Environmental Report is scheduled to be completed in June 2010.

## **PROJECT CONTACTS AND INFORMATION**

For more information about the process, the project or to place your name on the project mailing list, contact Larry Hartman (651-296-5089 or [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)) Office of Energy Security, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free Tel: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Service, 800-627-3529, and ask for the Department of Commerce.